

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 10 and 12 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 10 can be found in the specification, for example, at page 12, lines 10-18. Support for the amendments to claims 3 and 12 can be found in the specification, for example, at page 8, line 18 - page 9, line 20. No new matter is added.

Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mukoyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,831,659) in view of Botchy (*C Magazine*; "Speed-up Techniques and Thinking Routine for 3D Games Found Source Code of a 3D Game 'Doom'"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Mukoyama and Botchy, alone or in a permissible combination, do not teach or suggest every claimed feature of independent claims 1 and 10. Mukoyama and Botchy do not teach or suggest each of the part objects having a projecting portion projecting from a display surface on which an image is drawn, as recited in independent claims 1 and 10.

The Advisory Action asserts that the image formed on the flat display surface of Mukoyama corresponds to the claimed "projecting portion" because the flat display surface of Mukoyama includes virtual projection shapes (see Advisory Action, page 2 and Fig. 16 of Mukoyama). However, these two dimensional virtual projection shapes do not actually project from the display surface on which they are drawn (see Fig. 16 of Mukoyama). Therefore, Mukoyama does not teach or suggest each of the part objects having a projecting portion projecting from a display surface on which an image is drawn, as recited in independent claims 1 and 10.

Botchy does not remedy Mukoyama's deficiencies. Botchy is applied by the Office Action only for its alleged teaching of generating an image while performing hidden surface removal.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 10 are patentable over the combination of Mukoyama and Botchy. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 2-9 and 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mukoyama in view of Botchy and in further view of Nakagawa (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0135603). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Mukoyama, Botchy and Nakagawa, alone or in a permissible combination, do not teach or suggest every claimed feature of independent claims 3 and 12. Mukoyama, Botchy and Nakagawa do not teach or suggest generating the plurality of objects as three-dimensional objects including Z-texture values, as recited in independent claims 3 and 12.

The Office Action acknowledges that Mukoyama and Botchy do not teach storing Z texture (see Office Action, page 5). Further, Nakagawa does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Mukoyama and Botchy.

The Office Action asserts that the claimed Z-texture mapping is taught at paragraph [0139] of Nakagawa (see Office Action, pages 6 and 7). However, the Z-texture mapping taught by Nakagawa "will not form a three-dimensional object or tree ..." (see paragraph [0104] of Nakagawa). Therefore, Nakagawa does not teach or suggest generating the plurality of objects as three-dimensional objects including Z-texture values, as recited in independent claims 3 and 12.

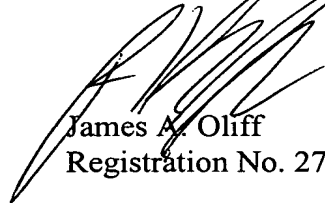
Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 12 are patentable over the combination of Mukoyama, Botchy and Nakagawa. Claims 4-9, 11 and 13-18 variously depend from independent claims 3 and 12. Further, claim 2 depends from independent claim 1. Therefore, claims 2, 4-9, 11 and 13-18 are patentable over the applied references for at least their dependency on the independent claims, as well as

for the additional features they recite. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:PTM/lrh

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Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

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